

**City of Milpitas
Approved Minutes
Telecommunications Commission
April 20, 2009**

I. Call to Order & Roll Call:

Telecommunications Chair, Albert Alcorn called the meeting to order.

Members Present: D. Gupta, A. Alcorn, R. Shaw, W. Lam, S. Bansal, K. Bohan, S. Ahuja, H. Tran

I.S. Staff: B. Marion, E. Pasion

Members Absent:,
N. Gupta. I. Munir

City Council: A. Gomez

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

The members of the Commission recited the Pledge of the Allegiance.

III. Announcements:

Staff reminded the commission of the annual state of the community address scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2009, in the city hall council chambers. All city commissioners are invited to attend this event.

IV. Approval of the Agenda:

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S D. Gupta / S. Bansal Ayes: 8

V. Approval of the Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

M/S S. Bansal / H. Tran Ayes: 8

VI. Citizen's Forum:

No comments made for the record.

VII. New and Continued Business:

1. Verizon Wireless 1501 McCarthy Blvd.

Cindy Hom with the city's planning department introduced a request from Verizon wireless to set up a temporary 60-foot cell site at 1501 McCarthy Blvd. Commissioner Tran asked staff how long the temporary cell tower would be operated at this location. Verizon and staff noted that it would only be for two years. Chair Alcorn reiterated to review the application for its

technological merits and to allow for the planning commission to review it for its visuals and esthetic issues.

Motion to approval the application.

M/S

H. Tran / D. Gupta

Ayes: 8

2. Comcast Service Updates.

Staff welcomed Laura Macias, with Comcast Government Affairs. She provided a review of the upcoming digital channel changes that will be impacting current Comcast subscribers to basic and expanded basic analog cable television services.

Comcast will be converting its current analog expanded basic channels (35-82) to a new digital channel service. Existing subscribers will be offered two digital adapters to convert the analog channels to the new digital service. This will cover up to three television sets in a household. After which, a monthly rental fee of \$1.99 will be charged for the fourth television set connection. Ms. Macias reported that Comcast has already assisted with digital box conversions for the City of Santa Clara and anticipates working with the City of Milpitas with its conversion as well.

Vice Chair D. Gupta asked if the digital boxes available at retail stores could be used in this application. Comcast and staff reported that digital converter box is dedicated to over-the-air broadcast signals and will not work the Comcast cable channels. The commission asked if the cable signal could be split from the digital box. It could be done with minor connections diverted off from the main set top box and whether if distance would be and issues. Members of the commission also asked whether a high definition signal could also be split. A digital signal can be split; however, it was made clear that a high definition signal would not be able to split the signal without compromising the quality of the picture. Commissioner Shaw asked whether the new digital channels will work with the QM digital tuner cards being offered on high definition televisions. It is unknown if digital coding change would accept the channel line up provided by Comcast. Commissioner Lam noted that he currently gets hi-def channels from ABC 7 and KQED 9 which are within the basic cable service channels. Ms. Macias noted that she would be like to report back to the commission once the transition has been completed.

Motion to note, receipt and file.

M/S

D. Gupta / H. Tran

Ayes: 8

3. MCTV Corporation Group.

Commissioner D. Gupta reported that the agreement with the city and the MCTV26 organization will be on the April 21 city council agenda for final approval. He also reported that application filing for the non-profit status is also being worked on and must be completed in order to start any type of fund raising program to support the organization.

Commissioner Tran looks forward to expanding the public hours to use the studio and thanked staff for maintaining the programming hours on a weekly basis.

Commissioner Bohan added that he has assisted with various groups in the evenings to help with studio tapings and looks forward to expanding the evening use of the cable studio. He also worked with staff to test a hearing device to give direction to the studio talent from the cable control room.

Commission D. Gupta reported that the Monday evening training was also being offered and the commission received specialized training on the studio equipment from Magic Wave on the production video switcher.

Chair Alcorn also reported that he has used some rather inexpensive wireless microphones which resulted in only problems with its use.

Motion to note, receipt and file.

M/S D. Gupta / H. Tran Ayes: 8

4. Master Plan Work Session.

Chair Alcorn recommended that the commission review the Master Plan document, check the status of master plan accomplishments and report back to the city council on a midterm update on the current progress of the document.

The commission suggested that it meet on Saturday, June 27.

The chair requested that staff poll the commission on the June 27 meeting state and send a reminder by May 4.

Motion to note, receipt and file.

M/S S. Bansal / W. Lam Ayes: 8

5. March –'09 Information Services Report

Staff reported on the monthly highlights for March 2009.

The new GovDelivery program is now in use on the on the new city website. There are 150 subscribers to the new service.

The new network equipment is being configured and prepared for delivery. Staff has been working with Silicon Valley Unwired and continues to do installation and testing of the wireless network. A fiber connection will be completed from Milpitas to the Google campus to support the Wi-Fi network. Currently, there are no plans for a formal announcement of when the new Milpitas Wi-Fi service will be available.

Staff is continuing to review and implement a new cellular plan for its public service cellular phone coverage.

The new Milpitas website is also working and new features, such as the Form 700 documents, that can be accessed from the web. Vice Chair D. Gupta did not support publishing the information placed on the web. Staff noted that the city received numerous requests to review the Form 700 documentation. The Open Government ordinance states public documents are to be made public for review. Commissioner D. Gupta disagreed with the use of the documentation for public review and use.

Staff reported that it has been updating its GIS data maps that also included the new Silicon Valley Humane Society facility and new city/county library buildings.

Chair Alcorn asked about for the former library location and its remodeling progress. Staff noted it would be under construction for the next 18 months. Once completed, the new Milpitas Senior Center will be operational for daily use. Staff will be working with the implementation of its technology.

Commissioner Tran asked if the Wi-Fi was another venture. Staff reported that it was the former EarthLink Wi-Fi network and Silicon Valley Unwired was taking on the implementation and operation of a Wi-Fi network in Milpitas.

Staff reported that the city continues operate its own wireless network to support public safety operations and public works.

Motion to note, receipt and file.

M/S

D. Gupta / H. Tran

Ayes: 8

6. Roundtable Discussion

Commissioner Ahuja suggested to the commission that it considered changing the title of the commission name from telecommunications to technology. Chair Alcorn reported that a similar request was made back in 2001. At that time, the commission decided not do a name change. He requested staff review the minutes and see if there were any specific issues that would suggest a name change.

Staff noted that another Milpitas commission did do a name change. The Citizens Emergency Preparedness Advisory Commission changed its name to the Emergency Preparedness Commission. Chair Alcorn noted that this request of a name change could be part of the master plan discussion and for the city council to review.

VIII. Adjournment of Meeting:

Meeting adjourned to May 18, 2009.